

*Stachys floridana* (Florida Betony, Rattlesnake Weed)

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)



**Description and Biology**

- Perennial, erect herb 8 to 20 inches in height with hairy square stems.
- Lance-shaped leaves have scalloped margins, are oppositely arranged, and are approximately 2 inches long and 1 inch wide. They are connected to the stem by a 1.5 inch petiole (stalk to a leaf).
- Occurring in clusters at the top of the stem, the trumpet-shaped flowers are white to pink and may have purple spots.
- The underground segmented and white tuber resembles the rattle of a rattlesnake, hence the common name “rattlesnake weed.”



**Current Status**

A native of Florida, this plant has spread north since the 1940s and is now found throughout the southeastern United States. It has been found in several counties in North Carolina primarily in the coastal plain and is listed as a Class B state noxious weed. Anyone who suspects a potential infestation outside of the regulated county of Orange should report it to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Weed Specialist at 1-800-206-9333.

*Stachys floridana* photography by John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org.